

## THE LEPER PRIEST

Story of the Work of Father Damien in the Leper Prison Hospital of Molokai.

The Sublime Unselfishness and Heroic Death of a Man Who Lived Only for Others' Good.

Burying Himself in His Young Manhood and Finally Dying from the Most Loathsome of Diseases.

New York Sun: The story of Father Damien, who died at Kalaupapa, Hawaii, April 10, is one of the most impressive of any time or age.

At 33 years old, in full possession of health and fortune, a man of education and refinement, "a prince coming to his kingdom," Damien deliberately offered himself as missionary to the outcast lepers of the Sandwich Islands, knowing full well that he, in time, would become a leper also. In 1884 the first symptoms of the horrible disease manifested themselves in Damien; since that time the heroic priest has been dying the most lingering and frightful death known to man—the death to which he willingly condemned himself. His disease has been daily expected for months past. Damien's story has been often told to the world, but never before as the Sun tells it to-day. Damien's story is the story of his life among the lepers as he wrote it, with untiring heroism, in a cold report to the Hawaiian government. This is the first and only account ever given by Father Damien of his life at Molokai.

The story of Damien, as told by himself, is, of course, the record which history will preserve of his noble life; while the modesty, the humility, the gentle and kindly spirit of the man, utterly forgetting itself in love and care for others—in a word, Damien's absolutely ideal heroism, is here fully, though unconsciously, displayed. Molokai, which is generally spoken of as the leper settlement, is an island of the Hawaiian group, and Kalaupapa, a village on the island, is the lepers' home. As is well known, the settlement is simply a prison hospital, none of the people being permitted to depart. A prison in name, Kalaupapa is a prison in reality. So far as isolation is concerned, no better place for the leper settlement could be imagined. Kalaupapa is simply a tongue of the land, washed on three sides by the ocean, and thrusts out there from a line of cliffs 4,000 feet high. No one has ever escaped from Kalaupapa. The little peninsula is three miles long and a mile wide. It is treeless and exposed, naked to the full force of the north wind. During the winter months the weather of Kalaupapa is bleak, cold and rainy. In the summer the sun beats down fiercely. The mountains hang over the little peninsula like giants.

The lepers were brought here in 1853. For decades before 1850 leprosy had prevailed in the Hawaiian Islands, but not extensively. In 1850 the disease became a scourge, and a few years later the leper colony was established and all the lepers on the Sandwich Islands were ordered to be removed there. In April of last year there were 749 lepers there.

The lepers first taken to Kalaupapa were in a condition little better than that of the hapless seamen who had been "marooned," or put ashore by their comrades upon desert islands. They had no houses but flimsy huts, no decent clothing, no medical attendance worthy of the name, and but the poorest kind of food. The oldest of the miserable creatures sank into a kind of apathy and laid down and died. Among the youngest after the first few years had killed hope in their hearts, and they may only be termed the organs of despair. They abandoned themselves to excesses. They made native alcohol and kept it secret. The outrageous hula dances were matters of continual occurrence. The Hawaiian government paid no attention to them. In the opening sentence of his story Father Damien has told what he found there. It is doubtful if there was upon the island the wide earth at the time of Damien's coming in 1873 such a scene of madness, wretchedness and despair as at the settlement at Kalaupapa.

Father Damien arrived at Honolulu at the time of the best of the segregation of the lepers in 1864. He was 24 years old, a native of Belgium, and a member of the Society of Pious. He had labored for some time in England. He was looked upon as a young man of ability, and his superiors predicted for him a great future. Nine years after going to Honolulu he one day heard his bishop wish that some priest would volunteer to go out among the lepers at Molokai. Damien pondered over the matter for a week, during which time it was clearly brought to his attention that if he went to Molokai he must not only stay there forever, but must, in all human probability, die a leper's death. He offered himself for the place and his offer was accepted. In a few days he was landed at Kalaupapa. He had no money or no means of providing for himself. He had to trust entirely to the kind-hearted ones among the lepers. The horrible scenes he met with at first appalled him. The Hawaiian government treated him with sternness. Damien was not permitted to go out to any of the islands near by to meet his brother priest for confession, and the sheriff at Molokai had orders to put the priest in jail if he stirred off the greedy peninsula on which the lepers were. Damien became at Kalaupapa, as he wrote himself, "physician of the soul and body, magistrate, school teacher, carpenter, joiner, cooper, and denier, housekeeper, cook and often undertaker and gravedigger." The poor lepers came to look upon him as their friend and assistant in every possible way. He moved among them and lived with them as one of themselves. His influence became unbounded. He was the arbiter of all disputes, the final resource in every trouble. Finally the Hawaiian government came to look upon Damien kindly. They put him on the same footing as the medical inspector who at times visited the colony and allowed him every privilege. Damien did not leave the island, but remained constantly laboring among the lepers.

In Damien's story there is a constant comparison between the leper settlement as he found it and the leper settlement a dozen years ago. Now there are at Kalaupapa and the adjoining villages good frame houses, built of lumber, which, of course, brought there from remote parts of the island; several hospitals for both males and females, attended by an efficient corps of physicians; generous supply of food and clothing, given by the government; good schools for the children; and an increase of comfort in every way. But more surprising than this, there is a strange change in the life and habits of the lepers. The lecherous are no more heard of. Comparatively little of the native alcohol is distilled. The lives of the people are moral and the lepers have taken to cultivating garden spots around their homes. Kalaupapa is a peaceful and apparently a happy community. With changing wide and Damien merely states these wonderful changes without accounting for them. But that they were due almost entirely to himself alone is the instant verdict of all who have been conversant with his life and the work at Kalaupapa. Damien speedily saw when he went among the lepers that he could do little for their spiritual welfare until they were better off temporarily. In their miserable, hopeless condition they jeered at God and man and rioted in a frenzied attempt to drown the thoughts of their end. Damien immediately began to write letters to the government detailing the horrible state of affairs on Molokai. He sent letter after letter unceasingly. Finally committees of the board of health and of the Hawaiian legislature appeared on Molokai. The devoted priest, his eyes filled with tears, pointed

out to the officials what was needed. Medical men in Hawaii began to pay a great deal of attention to the study of leprosy, and the leper sentiment at Molokai was much discussed. One by one the bad things at Molokai were necessarily remedied. He finally had the pleasure of seeing the most horrible of the evils entirely removed. And when this was done, he found, too late, that the leper settlement had become, in a great degree, a God-fearing and Christian community, looking to him as its head.

Damien was with the lepers, of course, daily and hourly. He was in contact with lepers of all grades, including the most resistant and hardiest. He had some knowledge of medicine and before the advent of the physicians was medical adviser to half the settlement. Until 1884 he felt fairly well. In that year pains in the left foot troubled him. These continued to get worse and in the absence of any other signs were attributed to rheumatism. Toward the close of '84 Dr. Aning, a physician at Kalaupapa, diagnosed Damien's troubles as leprosy. In May, 1885, the doctors, after careful examination, found to signs that the disease was spreading in Damien; but in August of that year leprosy had become so manifest that Damien knew that his doom was sealed. He still walked and talked with the lepers ministering to the sick, teaching the children, living the same old life of unselfishness and heroism, and thinking only of alleviating the lot of the lepers and caring for their souls. His only reward was in seeing that he benefited both the souls and bodies of his charges in abundant measure.

In the spring of 1886 arrived an assistant to Father Damien, Father Conrady, a native of Oregon, and a young man in full health. Father Conrady, like Damien, volunteered to go among the lepers, and hastened his departure when he learned that Damien had been stricken with leprosy. Father Damien willingly received Conrady, knowing that he himself would soon be too sick to work, and that he must have a successor. In a few months there arrived seven Sisters of the Franciscan Order to serve as nurses in the leper hospital. Two of the sisters—Grille and Irene—came from Syracuse, in this state. By this time the world was ringing with Damien's fame. The king of Hawaii named him a Knight Commander of the Order of Kalakaua I, but the priest never wore the glittering decorations of the order. He said that it would shame his worn and patched cassock. In England Henry Labouchere started a subscription for Damien in his parish. Shortly after this Father Damien was forwarded to Father Damien a draft for \$5,000, the contribution of himself and some of his parishioners. Shortly after this Mr. E. Edward Clifford, treasurer of the Church Army, an English Episcopal institution, visited Damien, bringing money and presents.

There is one final picture of Damien, that disclosed in a letter written by Father Conrady to friends in this country a few months ago: "I am going to give you a few lines about the dear Father Damien, who will soon be no more, as he is falling a victim to his charity. In England and America they call him the hero martyr. It is my privilege to be near him to live with him. Leprosy has done its work in his ears, his eyes, nose, throat, his hands and his lungs. He is a poor father who has suffered dreadfully. He is completely disabled. His voice is almost extinct. If you could only see him as he is, you would be filled with tears. He is now lying in bed, and I consider it a never failing remedy for a cough. J. FELDMAN. Ackers' English preparations are for sale in Helena only by R. S. Hale & Co."

Never had a preparation assume appropriate name than Ayer's Hair Vigor. When the capillary glands become enfeebled by disease, age, or neglect, this dressing imparts new life to the scalp, so that the hair assumes much of its youthful fullness and beauty.

Portland, Oregon, July 31. While I was in Tillamook last winter I was affected by a very bad cold, which I consulted one of the best physicians in Tillamook, whose prescriptions failed to relieve me. I became alarmed, and at the suggestion of a friend purchased a bottle of Ayer's English Remedy for coughs, and after using it according to directions was completely cured. I therefore cheerfully recommend it. JACOB SWITZER. I had a racking cough and inflamed throat and bought a bottle of Ayer's English Remedy upon the recommendation of a friend, and was entirely cured by it. I consider it a never failing remedy for a cough. J. FELDMAN. Ackers' English preparations are for sale in Helena only by R. S. Hale & Co.

With repeated and powerful doses of quinine, chills and fever, in some of its various forms, springs into active existence again, often without the slightest apparent provocation. To extinguish the smoldering embers of this obstinate and recalcitrant malady, no less than to subdue it when it rages furiously in the system, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is all sufficient. When every resource of the pharmacope has been exhausted against it in vain, the Bitters conquered it—will remove every lingering vestige of it. Nay, more, the Bitters will protect those brought within its influence of the atmosphere of poison that begets malarial disease, from its attacks. Disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels are among the complaints to be apprehended from the use of miasma-tainted water. These are both cured and prevented by the Bitters. Rheumatism, constipation and renal complaints yield to its action.

An eminent physician says: A healthy liver secretes from two to three pounds of bile every twenty-four hours and disposes of this secretion where it will do the most good. Now if the liver is out of order, the whole system is in trouble, the spirits are depressed, the mind is not clear, and a person whose liver is not performing its duty is very soon unfitted for regular duties. Dr. Henley's Dandelion Tonic rouses the torpid liver and enables it to perform its proper functions, thereby regulating the whole system. Sold by R. S. Hale & Co., wholesale and retail agents, Helena.

Cure For Piles. Itching piles are known by moisture like perspiration, producing a very disagreeable itching after getting warm. This form, as well as blind, bleeding and protruding piles, yield at once to the application of Dr. Bosanko's Pile Remedy, which acts directly upon the parts affected, absorbing the tumors, allaying the intense itching and effecting a permanent cure. Fifty cents. Address The Dr. Bosanko Medicine Company, Piqua, O. Sold by R. S. Hale & Co.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve. The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by R. S. Hale & Co.

## MINING IN CHINA.

If Lumber Could Only be Carried Into the Hills.

Fremo Examiner: The last steamer from China brought home John Donaldson of this county, one of the Hildreth miners who went to that country to show the natives of China how to work an ore vein. Mr. Donaldson tells many interesting things in regard to the comparatively unknown region where he was located. The mine is situated in the province of Shantung, near the town of Pingtung. It is about 150 miles in the interior from the seaport at the Gulf of Pechili. During the eight months that the boys were there they saw no white men, except themselves, save a few missionaries. The mine is gold bearing and has been worked for several hundred years by the primitive methods of the Chinese, and has been gophered out near the surface. The mine is owned by the government and is superintended by Gen. Li-Chang-Ti, a retired officer of the Chinese army. Mr. Donaldson speaks in the highest terms of the courteous treatment received at the hands of the general, though he does not speak so highly of the common people.

"How did you get along for grub?" asked the reporter of Mr. Donaldson. "Never lived better in my life. We boarded ourselves and lived on chicken eggs, duck, and the finest beef you ever saw, for about ten cents a meal on an average. Eggs cost us three cents a dozen, chickens were four cents apiece and ducks could almost be had for the asking."

"Are you going back?" "Hardly think I shall, although we promised the general that we would return if we were needed again. You see, the trouble is there is no wood there for timbering, and it's dangerous to get too far underground. The planks for stulls are brought over from Seattle, and the mine was on the coast, but you understand we are 150 miles in the interior, and there are no wheeled conveyances in use in that province, and would be next to an impossibility to bring timbers in."

Dr. Bo-san-ko. In his new discovery for consumption, succeeded in producing a medicine which is acknowledged by all to be simply marvelous. It is a exceedingly pleasant to the taste, perfectly harmless, and does not sicken. In all cases of consumption, coughs, colds, whooping cough, croup, bronchitis and pains in the chest, it has given universal satisfaction. Dr. Bosanko's Cough and Lung Syrup is sold at 50 cents by R. S. Hale & Co.

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